

8.26.83

I feel at peace with the world
It's nice for me to be able to get my words on paper
Made peace with Anne and Enid
Frightened of peeing on Anne's carpet
If there is anything I can do to help, you only have to ask
Deciding has a use, if the decision is still in our power

8.27.83

It's a good move down here
No hair, no teeth, otherwise perfect
Coping with day to day, but everyone has troubles
I have never asked for help before and need accommodation when I get discharged from the hospital
All I ask for is a place to stay (one room) with a garden to pop in
I have to write this down whilst I can remember. I get fact and fiction mixed up
All things come to an end some day
I do not mind going to Anne's on a temporary basis, but I could not live here permanently, too nervous about spoiling her lovely home

8.28.83

I do not know whether I am in a world of fact or fiction, but whatever it is, it is better than the gates of Hell which I have just been through
Let things all take their own course. I can not change fate
I promise to help others in trouble, live as cheaply as I can, and give some of my pension to the hospital
The staff are angels

8.29.83

When I came here I could not walk, speak, turn over or feed myself, now I can do all these things slowly and by thinking. It is truly a miracle
I do not know what the future holds, but I can face it
I have not decided whether to go on with treatment. Let nature take its course

8.30.83

I wish I had money to reapey the hospice

9.3.83

Writing not good
Don't want to lose my independence

9.7.83

My brain is like a circular sawmill (sharp)

9.12.83

Thank you for being my good relatives, taking me out so often

9.13.83

Looking back I have been going funny in my head for a long time, the sooner I get off this earth, the better

9.14.83

Decision day, try to get as well as possible so that I can make a firm decision regarding radiation therapy
If not responding to treatment, let nature take its course

9.17.83

Decided not to have R-therapy, I feel guilty about the trouble everyone has taken, but my brain is useless. I say things I do not know. I cannot take a chance of being like this for the rest of my life. I do hope I am no trouble. Forgive me if I am.

9.18.83

I cannot be all bad for so many to love me
Still of the same opinion, let nature take its course

9.19.83

Nights not good, cannot get my brain to stop working
Still of the same opinion, rather die than lead a life like this. This to me is not living

9.20.83

Do not call this living, just existing a few more years or months. Let nature take its course. Don't look forward to an old people's home and vegetating.

9.21.83

I cannot go to R-therapy until I stop shaking. If they cannot control it, it is in God's hands. I believe that I have placed my self in his care, and am trying so hard to relax

9.26.83

See what today brings, good bad, or indifferent, with God's help I can face it

9.27.83

Must say a prayer that I promised to say, but I forgot what it was so I will say my own

9.28.83

My brain was working, but dull, not like a circular saw
I am on my own, but I read a lot. I can't remember what I read but it passes an hour

9.29.83

Doctor does not think I shall go on years, but it is in the Lord's hands

9.30.83

Another lady died last night, at last they are at peace in the Lord's care

10.1.83

It is a lovely place and staff and food are still super. I feel guilty about sponging but if they get fed up or I live too long, put me in a geriatric ward
I am a lucky old woman.
I am so contented. Live a day at a time.
When the end comes I do hope I will be no trouble and go quietly

10.3.83

God is good to me

10.4.83

I am waiting to die, I do not call this living

10.5.83

I will keep plodding to the end

10.7.83

I know they love me and they don't need to come this way to prove it

10.12.83

Had a read of David and John, my grandsons are aptly names. David musical and Jonathan loyal

10.13.83

Whilst reading David and John a nurse came to talk to me so I put the Bible away, and said my prayers which I have said all my life on and off

10.15.83

Read a little of David and John, said my usual prayers

Thanks for everyone's love and kindness

10.17.83

After they had gone, I read a part of David and John, but I cannot remember it

God has been good to me, I have tried to lead a good life, but have fallen by the wayside many a time.

10.18.83

My brain is not so good. See what today brings. I never want to open my eyes now, but I make myself.

I do not even want to read now.

10.19.83

I must write to Enid today and tell her not to bring Jonathan and David for Thanksgiving day. They must share it as a family. If she wants to come before or after she is welcome, but I want my lads to remember me as their Ella, the grandma I was in December, full of fun, cleaning, cooking, making cakes, and going places. I had 2 restless days worrying about J & D, but felt better knowing it was resolved.

TO A SPIRITUALIST, THOUGHTS ARE LIVING THINGS, SO MY THOUGHTS MUST HAVE GONE TO U.S.A.

10.20.83

Thanks for a lovely family, I never thought I had so much love.

10.21.83

I am getting so muddled, I am getting depressed now

10.22.83

To me this is not living. Living is life. I say live a day at a time, but it is very hard to do under these circumstances.

10.23.83

Today Enid arrives from America. We will have plenty to talk about. I am lucky to have such a good and loving family. Thank God for them and for the Hospice.

I have my off days, but also more on days

Surprise, Enid arrived early. I do love her and all her family just as much as Anne and her family. They have been kind generous and good and if there is an after-life I want to go where they go if possible. We love each other as a family.

10.24.83

I look forward to seeing Enid today. She looks nice. Anne came for her so it was a double surprise. I am so proud of them and love them very much.

ELLA'S LETTERS TO ENID

9.15.83

Dear family who are dear to me.

Thanks for coming over Enid. Thanks Ray for letting her and looking after the lads all those weeks. You are a good old stick. I will not tell you what is happening. And will tell you that. I got a letter from the millionaire, his secretary, promised to save stamps and send a donation. By the way, your stamps will be very welcome. Please send them here. I am glad you are home with your family and amongst love. I am looked well after here and there is a feeling of love and care, remember me to Shirley and family. Will you tell me where you have hung F Wildes pictures and the Royal Plates? Or do they look nice? This will be a short letter. It's hard work printing. I will get someone to check it for me. Give the boys a kick up the backside if you can catch them. I never used to miss. Glad you and David won silver medals. No worries over me and and Arthur, plus Janet, Andrew, Christine, and Nigel give me lots of love. I am a lucky old woman. The weather is rain and more rain, that is all for now. Cheerio time 9 AM. Drugs coming round. God bless.

All my love, mum

9.23.83

Dear family, and I mean, DEAR FAMILY.

THANKS FOR YOUR WELCOME LETTER. Call and they are very newsy. Boys back at school and football season started. Are you and Ray still coaching? You do like entertaining and cooking. I enjoyed your cooking. The weather here is mixed, today is Sunshine. I should have a walk in the garden. I am on a new pill, it's to try to stop the shaking. Len and Ron went home to their family but they both expect to be back, but not for a long time. Jimmy I forgotten. Pat is back in hospital so I do not know what is happening there. Mr. short has not been near since his friend died. Ray still happy working? Give him my love, you've got a good lad there. Thank him for letting you come over, and and Arthur are good to me. Janet, Andrew, Christine, and Nigel visit me often. Shirley phoned from Heathrow and said she love me. She will send me postcards some more stamps. Lizzie Lawton visited me last Sunday. She is down at Valerie Dougal's nieces. What two pleasant surprises. They stayed for Sunday service. I enjoy the service. I have found peace now, so don't worry about me. I am well cared for and you know what the hospice is like. Cheerio, and God bless you all. Give Jonathan and David a big hug for me. They will enjoy that.

Love to all of you from me, your mum.

9.27.83

Dear Family,

I had a lovely letter from you this morning, and that you mentioned losing your last extra contact lens. Take care, you can pay a long time for an accident. Now I will try to keep to the lines. So raising New Jersey? He gets around. But you have lots of friends. Glad you were keeping an ion read. Shirley is a good friend. She sent me a card this morning from Dublin. She enjoys Ireland. I save stamps, so lots of people in hospice give their stamps to me. Molly Smith fiddler sends me plenty, plus a10 pound contribution. Betty Smith ran a raffle at the Cedar Park and sent a check for 14 pounds. Mr. Unsworth gave a bottle of whiskey and Betty Smith gave a bottle of wine. The bursar will send a receipt to Cedar Park bowlers. Dr. Garstead just came. I will ask him to write you a few lines leave it for him to do. He told me they were leaving me alone until later and they will take care of me now see what he says if I have it right. I say what comes in my head and it is often wrong. Here's what Mr. Garstead wrote now. (We will care for Ella day by day, all together – M.G.) you're verified what I said, so for once I was right. Give David and Jonathan a kick up the backside if you can catch them. If they would rather have a big juicy kiss, they can have one of those. Please take care of Eden, you are needed. Give my love to Ray, he's turned out a brick. Give him a big hug for me. I'm not a sloppy person. God bless and keep you all safe and under his protection. Cheerio for now, I am in good hands. I have lots of visitors and I am lucky. Distance is no objection when thoughts are living things.

Love, ME

9.28.83

Dear Family,

Thank you for thinking of me so often. I am a lucky old woman to have so much love and care. Guess what! I went to the Catholic services this morning. It is similar to ours. I enjoyed it. I should go again, but not change my faith. I am still a spiritual list. Funny, it comes easiest to me. And Arthur had a nice time this weekend at Blackpool. It should be resting time but now the opposite has got company and you cannot help it hear them talking, so I will try and finish this letter. The artist comes today. But she has not arrived either. I'm doing a drawing of a walk on the Pennines. Remember when Elsie, you and I went to saddleworth? What a lovely day! I enjoy receiving your letters. I shall answer them as long as I can. I do not need to tell you how I am. Anne will tell you all the news. Call Anna all there is to know, they do not keep secrets from anyone here. I get lots of mail, got one from Jerry Johnson. Remember her? She's the one who calls everyone darling. Her ex-husband has the secondhand shop opposite where we used to go for cockles and mussels. When you and Amber Young. Not much more. Thanks for the happy memories. Both abroad, in England, and in the USA! I have been lucky once more. Thanks. God bless you all and keep you safe. Christine does good drawings, she is going to art class this term she can enroll. Let's hope all keeps well at your home. Give my love to Ray. Kiss for Jonathan and David. At least they will remember Ella, grandma. Take care of Enid and look after yourself, cheerio for now. Love to all I know, and thank them for thinking of me.

Love, your mum.

10.3.83

Dear family, and I mean that.

I do love you all, like I love Anne, Janet, Arthur, Andrew, Christine, and Nigel, they never miss visiting me. Christine and Nigel come 4 to 8. Christine helped with the tea, the hospice were short a voluntary staff, so like you used to do, she helped me. Margaret and Tom are at Elaine's this week. They said they will come though. We will wait and see. Liz said she would visit me one afternoon. I am a lucky old woman. Now for news. Wednesday Ken died, Sunday, Renee died, and also another lady who I did not know. I am glad I am not having radio therapy. If I was younger, I would take a chance, but at nearly 68 may I have had my life and I am satisfied. Call get lots of letters from Ashton, and it is nice to hear from old meats. I do not get many stamps now. The folks in Ashton send them to Saint Anne's which is nearer. Call Alice Norgate does knitting for them and sends a donation to Nellie Morgan's church, she's a good stick. I am pleased about your new contact lenses and glad you can have glasses for a change. So you want your first game on Saturday. I can imagine the top going on all day. I am surprised you have let the room I had but you have found a good use for it. It's better than being empty. If you want a few days away with Ray, I'm sure the young lady will look after the lads. Yes, I was surprised to see Sissy Lawton walking up the passage. I thought I got things wrong again my brain seems clearer, but my legs are weaker. I would rather that way than muddled. Love to Ray. Thank him for being so good to me. Kick Jonathan and David up to behind if you can catch them or give them a big kiss. Shirley sent me two cards. Love to you and regards to all I know. God bless you and keep you under his wing.

Love me.

10.5.83

Hello dear family and friends,

You're welcome letter today. In it, you were telling me all about Jonathan and David football. You don't need to tell me I know, the house revolves around your sports. Are you and Ray still coaching yet? Hope so, because you enjoy it so much. Jonathan is a worker, you should be proud of him, he's Ray the second. David is a miles, but he will be good at everything, even with the girls when he grows up. He's got that way with him. I'm going to aunts and Arthur's Friday to Sunday. That will be long enough. They are bringing me after work and fetching me back Sunday night. It was a nice surprise hearing from you. You must not worry about me. And and family are good to me and do visit me often. Francis Renee, Phyllis and Ken have died. I don't know if you knew Ernest. He fell before he came. He also died. Ron is back but not LEN. Don't you dare come. There's nothing you can do here. The hospice looks well after me. I have not much to say now only Nigel is doing a 13 mile sponsor run for the hospice and anyone else who wants to sponsor him. I'm going to have a wash now. Margaret, Tom Taylor are visiting me today. They're having a holiday at Milton keys. God bless you all and keep you safe. I do love you all, I am a lucky old woman so much love I have given my all I kno gives me love. Kiss the lads for me, they will not let you kick them up they're behind. Look after Enid.

You are needed very much love to Ray. I mean that very much after I've been to Anna Arthur's. Dr. Kerkum is reducing my steroids. I am on six per day now.

Love, mum.

10.6.83

Dear Enid and family.

Thank you for your welcome letter and stamps. They were much appreciated. I have not much news.

Yesterday morning, I went to church. In the afternoon, the artist came, but during her visit, Tom, Margaret and Hilda arrived. They all looked well and happy. It was a lovely day, and we sat outside until tea and biscuits arrived. Told me where most of my things went. I was not surprised at Alice postles. I have known her since 11 years old and Arthur is no objector to whatever she does. I feel sorry for Bernadette, but it must suit her. One thing she met her match with Joyce at the dance. I she took my man's record player back. Ray will always turn up, and who needs another man. One is enough for any woman. Read did not turn up for dinner, but one cannot rely on anyone, only one self. A NARAGHI has always carried her family, you know Enid it's hard to drop one's child in spite of their faults. That's your brother-in-law come back to England? When I was there at your home last time he was unhappy in the USA. I only read big print these days. I keep going over the small print time and time again. You told me about Jonathan in your last letter. He's Ray the second, but David is also an individual in his own so loving. Dr. Kirkman called yesterday and said I could stay here as long as I needed. He said he enjoyed me here because he could relax with me. And Arthur came after work and whilst here Dr. Garsted called and told me they would decide when to cut down the steroids. God bless and keep you all safe. Take care of each other. Ta ta for now. Hug and kiss. My lads. Janet and Andrew. Enjoy the weekend of black cool, but it was too much for Andrew's parents.

Lots of love, me.

10.13.83

Dear Enid and family

I received three letters from you and a phone call on Monday last night, and, Arthur, and Christine came and brought me some air Mail letters and also the 15 pounds I give as a donation to the hospice, the rest is if I need anything they get it out of the remainder. Like on Sunday afternoon, there will be a market on Canterbury so they can go and see what they can get. Some of the stamps will be on sale, they get more money for foreign stamps, so they will be selling those for the hospice. I have just had a bath, so I am shaky, but will steady up in a minute. I do not need to tell you what goes on here. And says she tells you all the news. You want to get that girl out of that room or you have a lodger for life. Call once they are in, they stick in, and you do not want Ray to grumble. Take care of each other and kiss and put your toe up there behind David and Jonathan, whichever they want. I am reading David and John New Testament. David as musical like our David and John is loyal and kind. Just like our lads. Regards to all I know and give Ray a kiss for me. Thank him for all he's done. God bless you Enid and take care of yourself and your health.

Cheerio all my love. Love, mum.